REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2001. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is repectfully requested.

Initially, to facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, the specification has been reviewed and revised in order to make a number of minor clarifying and other editorial amendments. A copy of the amended portion of the specification with changes marked therein is attached and entitled *"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."*

To further facilitate the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, original claims 4 and 7 have been cancelled. The remaining claims have been revised carefully to ensure compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

On pages 4-5 of the Office Action, original claims 1, 2-7, and 8-10 are rejected as follows:

Claims 1, 8, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Lohati et al. (Pat. No. 4,577,625); and

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lohati et. al.

It is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by the revised claims, now clearly patentably distinguishes over the applied prior art reference for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to a massage and tactile stimulation device that affects deep tissues and allows for point specific pressure. The prominent projections of the present invention are of a predetermined height, but may be of various shapes and sizes. As shown in Figs. 1,2, and 6 the predetermined prominent projections are stationary and located at parts of hand allowing for independent manipulation of projections, if desired. The present invention may be used for accupressure, the release of trigger points (tight muscle bands), or deep tissue massage. Accordingly, a plurality of massaging instrumentalities arranged in a pattern or indiscriminately located on a massaging device would primarily affect the cutaneous tissues. Therefore, in accordance with the present invention, a massage and tactile stimulation device is structured specifically for affecting deeper tissues.

Lohati discloses a rotating ball massager having a plurality of rotating ball assemblies (Fig. 1) or a rotating circular bead assembly made of resilient rubber. This is in contrast to the present invention. The present invention utilizes a stationary mounting that is advantageous for point specific pressure and localized control of projections during use. In addition, the present invention has individual prominent projections that are not interconnected, unlike the invention disclosed of by Lohati. This characteristic allows the user of the present invention to use the prominent projections autonomously. Autonomous use of the prominent projections is important as forces are applied through a smaller surface area to effectively penetrate to deeper tissues during massage. In contrast, the interconnected rotating ball or circular assemblies of Lohati provides for a greater surface area through which forces are distributed during massage thereby offering massage to cutaneous tissues, at best.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact the inventor by telephone promptly to resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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